

OUHSD trustees OK tentative budget

By BARBARA ARRIGONI-Staff Writer

Posted: 06/17/2010 01:02:27 AM PDT

OROVILLE — Oroville Union High School District trustees on Wednesday approved a tentative budget for the 2010-2011 school year, but did not act on a proposed \$1.3 million in cuts that could affect several programs over the next two years.

The total budget for the next year is about \$27 million. Of that, \$24 million pertains to the general fund, and 75 percent of general fund money goes toward personnel expenses.

The district projects enrollment for the next term will be 2,829, a 1.1 percent drop from last year. Revenue from the state for average daily attendance is also down, estimated for next year at 2,518 per average daily attendance.

Although it's uncertain what funding the state will eventually pass down to education when the state budget is passed, the district anticipates revenue for the year to be about \$22.9 million, according to the budget document.

OUHSD anticipates spending roughly \$8,398 per student.

The district does have a reserve fund, which it estimates will be down to about \$3.65 million at the end of the 2010-11 fiscal year. Business manager Susan Watts said that according to multiyear projections, all general fund reserves will be depleted by the end of the 2011-12 year, and the district would possibly have to use Medi-Cal Administrative Activities, or MAA funds. Medi-Cal

Administrative Activities funds are received by districts by the state to reimburse teachers or staff who provide medical services to students during the year.

However,

Watts cautioned against depending on those funds.

"It's dangerous to rely on MAA," she said. "We're not sure when it (will come) in. ... There is no way of estimating until after the fact."

The budget was approved to meet a state deadline, but it is subject to change. One change the trustees and district officials anticipate in months ahead is a list of proposed cuts brought to the board again Tuesday night.

The proposed cuts total \$1.3 million over two school years, and includes elimination of the swim team, health benefits for new or re-elected board members, Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp, the Prospect High School day care program, and a part-time position at Prospect and summer school. Other reductions are also listed.

The proposal also seeks reduction of Oroville Adult Education by \$740,000.

Of the \$1.3 million, \$881,392 in savings could be realized in 2010-11, if approved, and \$418,608 in 2011-12.

The district is already making some changes, notably reorganization of the alternative education program, which includes Oroville Adult Education. The board did not make decisions on the reorganization before deadline.

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Roberts indicated to the board and audience members that he is listening to some suggestions about the proposed cuts. For example, the ROTC program may be reduced to a 10-month program with one teacher for 2010-11, though that is uncertain.

He said with the cuts, he's trying to find a way to get the budget to match revenue.

"If we had to do without, I'd rather have a teacher in the classroom," Roberts said.


The proposed \$1.3 million cuts will be brought back to the board again in July, or possibly in September.

Trustee Craig Domeyer said that's prudent because they don't know when the state will adopt its budget or how the districts may be affected. He also indicated federal bailout money "might be coming."

"I think it's better to wait 'til we know these facts," Domeyer said.

Staff writer Barbara Arrigoni can be reached at barrigoni@orovillemr.com or 533-3136.

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